



Inside

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES
SPECIAL EVENTS
NEWS AND EVENTS
CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE
LAICO HAPPENINGS
TRAINING PROGRAMMES
PUBLICATIONS
MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS
CASE STUDY

Aravind News Team Archives

Hit Counter 7

Quote

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give".

-Kahlil Gibran

Dear Readers,

Among the various highlights of the month, the eye care exhibition "Kannae Nalamaa" organised by Aravind – Madurai deserves special mention as it received a warm response from the public. This is the second time that Aravind is organising such a grand exhibition at Madurai, the first one being held in 2002.

Aravind's maiden venture in the realm of organising cultural programme for the public came to reality with a spectacular dance programme conducted by Dr. Chitra Krishnamoorthy on Helen Keller. The spacious Lakshmi Sundaram Hall at Madurai was thronged with audience to view this special multimedia dance staged by the students of Nrityalaya School, USA.

The month also had another important event – the presentation of Dr. G. Venkataswamy Oration Award to Dr. John. P. Witcher from Proctor Foundation. Following this an international conference on corneal disorders was also organized. This year too Aravind Eye Care System became one of the destinations for the Tata Jagriti Yatris, a group of highly motivated youth visiting different successful organisations in India.

Different Aravind Eye Hospitals celebrated New Year, Pongal and Republic Day with a variety of programmes.

News about these and many more feature in this issue.

We wish you all a happy reading.

Aravind News Team

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Aravind Eye Hospital Receives Award for Best Kalaighnar Kapitu Thittam Implementation

Aravind-Madurai, January 26



Aravind Eye Hospital Receives Award for Best Kalaighnar Kapitu Thittam Implementation

Dr. R.Kim, Chief Medical Officer, Aravind - Madurai has received the Best Kalaighnar Kapitu Thittam Implementation Award from Mr. C. Kamaraj, Madurai District Collector at Republic Day function held at Madurai (Reserve Police Line Ground) on January 26, 2011. Totally 6 hospitals in Madurai district have received the award and Aravind Eye Hospital is the only ophthalmic hospital in the list.

SPECIAL EVENTS

AARANYA 2011

Aravind - Madurai, January 1- 2



AARANYA (An ARAvind New Year Aggregation), the New Year celebration and an informal get together for the senior staff of Aravind and their families was conducted for the first time at Aravind-Madurai. The staff with their families spent a relaxed time filled with enriching, informative and fun events. These included an evening spent witnessing a special multimedia dance performance by Mrs. Chitra Krishnamoorthy and her team, who enacted the inspiring life of Helen Keller at the Lakshmi Sundaram Hall. An early morning hike at Keelakuyilkudi which included a heritage walk led by Professor Venkatraman, Madurai's very own historian, who gave an enlightening tour of the Jain caves in the area. He spoke about Madurai's rich history, Jain philosophy and the extent of Jainism in Madurai. This was followed by a relaxing time at Aurofarm, filled with games and swimming. It was an opportunity for the senior staff from the different Aravind Eye Hospitals to come together and spend time rejuvenating and in getting to know one another.



Multimedia Dance Programme on Helen Keller

Madurai, January 1, 2011



A multimedia multicultural dance programme to honour the life and work of Helen Keller was organized by Aravind Eye Care System at Lakshmi Sundaram Hall here. The artists from Nrityalaya School of Indian Classical Odissi Dance, Washington D.C, USA performed the dance which was directed and choreographed by Dr. Chitra Krishnamurthy. This one hour 45 minutes production highlights Helen's relationship with her teacher, her efforts to promote independence for the disabled, her antiwar ideals and her work towards empowering women.



Tata Jagriti Yatra

Aravind - Madurai, December 29



Around 400 "Tata Jagriti" yatris visited Aravind Eye Care System to get an orientation on its working model. Through her moving speech, Ms. Pavitra Mehta offered a brief introduction to the genesis of Aravind. Dr. S. Aravind, Administrator, detailed the operational aspect of Aravind to the yatris. This is the second time that the yatris visiting Aravind - Madurai.

Tata Jagriti Yatra is an annual train journey that that takes hundreds of India's highly motivated youth (with some participation of international students) between the ages of 20-25 and experienced professionals with age above 25, on a eighteen day national odyssey, introducing them to unsung heroes of India. The vision of Tata Jagriti Yatra is to inspire young Indians to lead development by taking to enterprise. By doing so, they can turn from being job seekers to job creators. The aim of the Yatra is to awaken the spirit of entrepreneurship - both social and economic - within India's youth by exposing them to individuals and institutions that are developing unique solutions to India's challenges.



Presentation of Dr. G. Venkataswamy Endowment Oration Award

Aravind - Madurai, January 8

Dr.G. Venkataswamy Endowment Oration Award, instituted in memory of Aravind's Founder chairman was bestowed on Dr. John P. Whitcher of Francis I Proctor Foundation, USA for his outstanding and groundbreaking work in the field



of corneal disorders. At a spectacular ceremony held at Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute, Honourable Justice P. Sathasivam, Judge, Supreme Court of India presented the award. In his speech the Honourable Judge stressed that the medical profession stemmed out of the traits of humanity – compassion, kindness and benevolence. Dr. Whitcher in his oration recollected his over two-decade-old relationship with the Aravind Eye Care System and explained how the population of those with vision disability was growing over the years.

Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus presided over the function. Dr. N. Venkatesh Prajna, Chief – Medical Education, welcomed the gathering. Dr. R.D. Ravindran, Chairman proposed a vote of thanks.



Kannae Nalamaa 2011 Aravind Eye Care Exhibition

Aravind – Madurai, January 27 – 30



A grand eye care awareness exhibition, *Kannae Nalamaa* was organised by Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai for the general public and students in the premises of Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute. Mr. C. Kamaraj, District Collector – Madurai inaugurated the exhibition in the presence of Dr. P.Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Dr.R. D. Ravindran, Chairman, Dr. G. Natchiar, Director – Human Resource, AECS and other senior Aravind leaders.

It was well attended by the students especially who came in large numbers and also the public. There were around 7000 visitors to the exhibition on four days. Different speciality clinics and departments had put up their stalls. A documentary on eye diseases was shown to the visitors. The visitors were very much impressed by the improvised operation theatre where videos on live surgeries were demonstrated. Various instruments and equipment used in eye care were kept on display. A general quiz on ophthalmology formed part of the exhibition.



NEWS AND EVENTS

Team from Life Style Visits Aravind-Pondicherry

December 14

A group from Life Style organization visited Aravind – Pondicherry. Dr. Venkatesh handled a session on Aravind genesis and they were taken for a hospital tour.



Workshop on Patient Satisfaction

Aravind – Tirunelveli, December 30



It is a well know fact that no business/organisation can exist without customers. At the workshop on Patient Satisfaction, Mr. R. Ganesan through appropriate examples explained to the audience the importance of Patient satisfaction. He also detailed the different kinds of patients who come to the hospital and also how to satisfy them. He also talked on how to build up a rapport among the employees themselves, the importance of effective body language and also about anchoring system.

Mr. R. Ganesan, Manager – DCW with so many laurels to his credit, has done NLP Program (Neuro Linguistic Program). He is a member of ISTD, a Reiki master and has also attended many courses on counselling.



Visit to Handicrafts Exhibition

Aravind - Tirunelveli, December 31



The staff of Housekeeping Department was taken to All India exhibition on handicrafts and Handlooms, "Kalanjali - 2010" held at Tirunelveli from December 15 - 31, 2010. More than 60 craftsmen across India had their handicrafts displayed in this exhibition. The exhibition showcased teak wood products with decorations, marble items from Rajasthan, brass items from Moradabad, Lak Bangles from Jaipur, Terracotta Porcelain Products from West Bengal, statues, handbags, Hyderabad Pearls, Rasi Stones and Jewellery.



New Year Celebrations

Aravind - Pondicherry, December 31

At the New Year celebrations, MLOPs put up cultural programmes like dance, skit, songs etc. Dr. P. Namperumalsamy, Chairman Emeritus, Dr. G. Natchiar, Director - HR, Mr. G. Srinivasan, and President - GOVEL Trust were the chief guests at the function. Sweets were distributed to all at the end of the function.



Aravind - Coimbatore

January 1



The New Year celebrations started with reflections on the year gone. A presentation on major events and the outstanding personalities of 2010 in India was done. This gave the MLOPs an overall idea about the happenings in India in 2010. Various games were conducted and the Anthakshari competition had a huge participation. And it was time to welcome 2011 looking forward to the new horizons with new aspirations.



Opening of Dining Hall for Day Scholars

Aravind-Pondicherry, January 1, 2011

The HR Department of Aravind - Pondicherry initiated the opening of a dining hall for the day scholars. The staff who were till now having lunch in their own departments felt it as a timely initiative.



German Researcher visits AMRF

January 2-13



Under the Indo-German collaboration (DST-DAAD) Project Based Personnel Exchange Programme (PPP), Dr. Markus Preising, Head of Laboratory for Molecular Ophthalmology, Justus-Liebig University of Giessen, University Eye Hospital Giessen Marburg GmbH, Dept. Giessen, Friedrichstrasse 18, Germany visited Department of Genetics, AMRF from 2nd to 13th January 2011. Dr. Markus met all the faculty members and interacted with all the research scholars at AMRF and gave a guest lecture on "Combined Mutations in CRX, PRPH2, and RHO - Chance Association or Modifier". This visit was

specially targeted to study the expression pattern of novel mutations identified in the candidate genes of Oculocutaneous Albinism.



Pongal CME

Aravind – Pondicherry, January 5 – 9



Pongal CME was held for the MLOPs to update themselves on the clinical and non-clinical aspects of patient care.



Cornea Connect 2011

Aravind – Madurai, January 8 – 9



The Cornea department of Aravind – Madurai organized an international symposium on corneal disorders, Cornea Connect 2011 which was marked by the presence of 12 renowned and eminent international members of faculty apart from the Aravind team. Around 200 participants attended the symposium. The symposium discussed on current trends in the diagnostic and treatment procedures in the field of corneal diseases.



Valedictory Function of the Instruments Maintenance Course

Aravind – Madurai, January 8



The valedictory function of the 69th Instruments Maintenance Course, a special course for the MLOP Technicians was held on Saturday January 8, 2011. Dr. G. Natchiar presided. Mrs. Kannamma Ravindran gave away the certificates and congratulated the MLOP technicians. Dr. Natchiar in her presidential address encouraged the technicians and indicated that after they complete three years of service they will be permitted to undergo a suitable technical course. An interesting feature at that function was the role play. Each technician identified herself with one instrument used in ophthalmology and spoke as though the instruments itself speaks on what they are, their major parts, the different models, their manufacturers, what they are used for, what are their most common "sickness" and how the technicians "cure" them of the ailments. It was suggested that other MLOPs in the hospital should be introduced to the various instruments through such role plays. Ms Meenakshi was the chief instructor of the course.



Pongal Celebrations

Aravind – Pondicherry, January 11

Elaborate Pongal celebrations were organized for the MLOPs with various games and cultural programmes. The MLOPs were divided into different teams and the team Anbu won the first prize in the game show.



Aravind– Coimbatore

January 11



Pongal Vizha started with preparing pongal by the MLOPs. Various competitions were arranged as part of the celebrations.



Aravind – Tirunelveli

January 11



Pongal celebrations started with prayer song by Mr.Panneer Selvam, Eye Bank Coordinator followed by Ms. Meenakumari, MRD Tutor welcoming the gathering. Sr.Chidambaram and team prepared Sakkaraai pongal (sweet pongal) in the traditional manner. Cultural programs including dance, songs, skit and kummi were organised. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer delivered a motivational talk. The celebrations came to an end by offering thanks to the Sun and Earth for all their blessings.



Aravind - Madurai



Each wing of Aravind Eye Care System came up with a special number at the Pongal celebrations held at Madurai. The hospital staff put up a skit, Kummiyattam, Kolattam and Karakattam. The GVERI team came up with a group song dedicated to SriLankan Tamilians wishing them a peaceful year ahead. Villupattu, by LAICO staff was the other highlight.



New Vision Centres

Ulunthurpet

January 19



New Vision Centre was inaugurated at Ulunthurpet in Pondicherry by Mathaji of Sri Saradha Ashram in the presence of Dr. R.Venkatesh, CMO, Aravind-Pondicherry, Dr. Thiruvengkatakrisnan, Camp Medical Officer, Mr. Kanagaraj-Manager-General, and Mr. Jayakumar-Free Hospital Manager. A total of 50 patients were examined on the inaugural day itself.



Kandamanur

January 19



Kandamanur Vision Center was inaugurated on 19th January by Dr. Richard Leuker, Cardiologist from USA. He was accompanied by Mrs. Meg Leuker. Professor Fred Munson opened the patient examination facility. Mr. D. Murugesan representing BSNL, Kandamanur inaugurated the teleconnectivity facility. Others to grace the occasion were Mr. Gopalsamy from Ambasamudram, Mr. Krishnamoorthy, the house owner, Dr. Datta, Mr. Maruthanayagam, K. Saravanan and the staff from Aravind Eye Hospital, Theni. A puja was performed at Swamy Renganathaswamy temple; Leukers and Munsons were honoured at the temple. Master Bharath, son of Ms. Veni, Administrator - LAICO explained the significance of Swamy Renganathaswamy Temple to the august gathering.



Dr. P. Namperumalsamy Felicitated

Mumbai, January 22



Dr.P. Namperumalsamy was invited as the "Guest of Honour" at the 6th Triennial Meet of the Ocular Trauma Society of India and was felicitated for his immense contribution to ophthalmology.



Republic Day Celebrations

Aravind – Tirunelveli

January 26



Dr.R.Ramakrishnan, Chief Medical Officer hoisted the National Flag. Doctors, MLOPs and administrative staff attended the function. Tamil patriotic songs were sung by the MLOP staff. Dr. R. Ramakrishnan gave a motivational speech. The function came to an end with the National Anthem and distribution of sweets.



Aravind – Pondicherry

Dr.R.Venkatesh, Chief Medical Officer hoisted the National flag. MLOP sisters sang patriotic songs. Sweets were distributed to all the staff members.



Aravind – Madurai



Dr. S.R. Krishnadas, Chief Medical Officer hoisted the National Flag. The function was held in front of the in-patient department in the hospital.



CONFERENCES ATTENDED ELSEWHERE

International Society for Genetic Eye Diseases & Retinoblastoma (ISGEDR) 2011 Meeting

Bengaluru, January 14 - 16

International Society for Genetic Eye Diseases and Retinoblastoma meeting was held at Narayana Nethralaya, Bangalore. This international conference brought together experts in the field of ophthalmology and scientists in the field of genetic eye diseases and retinoblastoma.

Dr. Usha Kim, Chief, Orbit and Oculoplasty Services, Aravind - Madurai chaired the session on *Advanced Retinoblastoma, Retinoblastoma chemotherapy and Retinoblastoma pathology*.

Dr.P.Sundaresan, Senior Scientist, AMRF presented a paper on *Genomic and proteomic analysis of corneal endothelial dystrophy*.

Dr.Shanti, Ocular pathologist and S.Shalini also attended the conference. Ms. C.Jayashree and Ms. P.Mohanapriya from Dr. G. Venkataswamy Eye Research Institute presented their work on Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON) and keratoconus respectively. This meeting provided the researchers a platform to share information, promote international collaboration and distribution of scientific knowledge.



Chrysalis – 2011

Bengaluru, January 16

Dr. Usha Kim was invited as guest faculty for the conference held at Sankara Netralaya. She chaired the Orbit session and delivered a keynote address on Congenital Ptosis – An Indian Experience. She attended the video session on Learn Varied surgical techniques, LPS Repair with adjustable suture – A simple alternative.



Annual Meeting of Asia - ARVO

Singapore. January 20 - 22



Annual meeting of Asia Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) annual meeting was held at Resorts World Sentosa, Singapore. This international meeting brought together professional experts and scientists in the field of clinical ophthalmology, stem cell biology and molecular biology of various eye diseases. The meeting provided the clinicians and researchers a platform to share practical experiences and novel scientific findings to promote international collaborations in the field of ophthalmology. The following staff from Aravind presented posters and papers at the meeting:

Dr.S.R. Krishnadas

- *The burden of glaucoma in India*

Dr.Venkatesh Prajna

- *Is Voriconazole better than Natamycin in treating fungal keratitis?*

- *Innate immunity in filamentary fungal keratitis*

Dr.P. Sundaresan

- *Genome and proteome wide approach towards corneal endothelial dystrophies (paper)*

Dr.C. Gowri Priya

- *A specific marker for corneal epithelial stem cells and a simple method for their exvivo expansion under Xenobiotic-free Condition (paper)*

Ms.K. Renugadevi

- *Molecular genetic analysis of Tyrosinase (TYR) Gene with oculocutaneous albinism (OCA) patients in Indian population (poster)*

Mr.Sushil Kumar Dubey

- *Evaluation of Lysyl Oxidase-Like 1 and Clusterin genes polymorphisms in South Indian population with pseudoexfoliation syndrome and pseudoexfoliation Glaucoma (poster)*

Mr.G. Gowtham

- *Screening of Aldose Reductase Gene promoter region with Type-2 Diabetic Retinopathy in South Indian population (poster)*

Dr.M. Jayahar Bharathi

- *Topical Nepafenac in the treatment of center involving Diabetic Macular Edema: Current perspectives on Ocular Mycoses in India (paper)*

Dr. Parthasarathi Sathyan

- *Predictors of and barriers associated with Poor follow-up in patients with Glaucoma in South India*

Dr.Padma Sathyan

- *Long term follow up of medical Vs surgical treatment in primary Glaucomas in a tertiary eye care centre in South India*



LAICO HAPPENINGS

Needs Assessment Visit to Vision for Sight Eye Hospital

Ratnapura, SriLanka, January 29 - 30



Mr. Sanil Joseph and Ms. Sashipriya from LAICO along with Dr. Chandrasekar Shetty- Chief, SightFirst Technical advisor visited Vision for Sight Eye Hospital, Ratnapura, Sri Lanka for doing needs assessment of the hospital as part of the consultancy for capacity building.

[Click here to view Consultancy statistical report](#)



TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Course title	Training Centre	Total Number Trained as on November 2010	Enrollments for December 2010
Long Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Fellowship in Anterior Segment / Intraocular Lens Surgery	Madurai	98	1
	Tirunelveli	12	0
	Coimbatore	20	0
	Pondicherry	2	0
Short Term Courses - For Ophthalmologists			
Diagnosis and Management of Glaucoma	Madurai	94	0
	Tirunelveli	120	0
	Coimbatore	87	2
	Pondicherry	1	0
IOL Microsurgery	Madurai	700	1
	Tirunelveli	271	2
	Coimbatore	207	0
	Pondicherry	8	0
Phacoemulsification	Madurai	124	2
	Tirunelveli	68	1
	Coimbatore	84	1
	Pondicherry	17	1
Small Incision Cataract Surgery	Madurai	152	1
	Tirunelveli	105	0
	Coimbatore	121	1
	Pondicherry	18	0
	Theni	1	0
Lasers in Diabetic Retinopathy	Madurai	240	1
	Coimbatore	229	2
	Pondicherry	2	0
Short Term Training in Vitrectomy (by Virtual)	Madurai	9	2
	Coimbatore	3	0
Fundus Fluorescein Angiography and Ultrasonography	Madurai	37	1
Instrument Maintenance Course			
Instrument Maintenance - For Technicians	Madurai	416	5

[Click here to view Training Programme full statistics](#)



PUBLICATIONS

- **JIMSA VOL: 23(3) 2010 JUL.-SEP. P. 192-194**

Thulasiraj, R D

Tackling Blindness in India: have we done enough?

Abstract: India was one of the first countries, even prior to the World Health Organization to have a focal National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB). This came into existence in 1976. This followed the long tradition and commitment of the leaders in the eye care to the community needs. During the last three and a

half decades NPCB established strong public private partnership, gathered necessary evidence through a series of surveys and launched a focal programme in mid 90s for the control of blindness due to cataract which then accounted for 80% of all blindness. This focal effort financed by a World Bank Loan helped in strengthening the infrastructure of secondary and tertiary eye care services both in the government and voluntary sectors. A decentralized structure with greater autonomy at State and District level emerged and this enhanced the effectiveness of the programme. All this led to laying a strong foundation to take on the future challenges and for what needs to be done in the years to come. The future challenges include building infrastructure and service delivery process to deal with conditions other than cataract for which is being adequately addressed in many parts of the country. The challenge will be to reach the marginalized populations who are often the poor, uneducated and living in rural areas. Considering that roughly one in four Indians will be in need of eye care, there will have to be a greater emphasis on human resource development and establishing primary eye care services. Since it is the access, availability and competence of the eye care team which will drive universal coverage and comprehensive delivery of eye care services. The achievements thus far have already earned India an iconic position in eye care amongst the developing countries. Addressing the future challenges successfully will not only help us to maintain this status but more importantly make sure eye care reaches everyone in need of it.

• **Indian J Ophthalmol. 2011 Jan-Feb;59(1):49-51**

Parag, K Shah; Kalpana, Narendran; Narendran, V; Ramakrishnan, M

Severe aseptic orbital cellulitis with subtenon carboplatin for intraocular retinoblastoma.

[View article](#)

• **Indian J Ophthalmol. 2011 Jan-Feb;59(1):55-8**

Usha, Kim R, Vipul Arora, Akash, D Shah, Urvashi Solanki

Clinical features and management of posttraumatic subperiosteal hematoma of the orbit.

[View article](#)

• **Indian J Ophthalmol. 2011 Jan-Feb;59(1):73-4**

Parag, K Shah, Rodney Morris, J, Narendran, V, Kalpana, Narendran

Visual acuity and electroretinography findings 3½ years after the first intravitreal injection of bevacizumab (Avastin) in aggressive posterior retinopathy of prematurity.

[View article](#)

• **Indian J Ophthalmol. 2011 Jan;59 Suppl:S118-22.**

Ramakrishnan, R; Khurana. M

Surgical management of glaucoma: an Indian perspective

[View article](#)

• **Lancet. 2011 Jan 10. [Epub ahead of print]**

Patel, V; Chatterji, S; Chisholm, D; Ebrahim, S; Gopalakrishna, G; Mathers, C; Mohan, V; Prabhakaran, D; Ravindran, R D; Reddy, K S

Chronic diseases and injuries in India

[View article](#)



MONTHLY PATIENT STATISTICS

December - 2010									
Hospitals	Madurai	Theni	Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Pondicherry	Dindigul	Thirupur	Total	
HOSPITAL OUT-PATIENT VISITS									
Paying (New & Review)	38,171	5,655	20,166	28,308	15,585	4,082	2,679	114,646	
Free (Direct walk-in)	10,147	1,553	4,595	8,759	4,845	-	-	29,899	
OUTREACH OUT PATIENTS									
Regular Eye Camps	9,563	1,813	1,909	8,103	3,400	-	-	24,878	

Diabetic Retinopathy camps	853	101	116	1,604	332	-	-	3,006
Refraction Camps	1,633	191	969	1,078	322	-	-	4,193
Mobile Refraction Unit	-	626	-	-	-	-	-	626
School Screening	20,200	286	7,220	6,865	1,000	-	-	35,571
Paediatric Camps	984	-	-	278	-	-	-	1,262
Vision Centres	6,164	3,738	3,108	2,210	1,640	-	-	16,860
Community Eye Clinics	3,402	1,660	3,621	-	-	-	-	8,683
Total Examinations OP	91,117	15,623	41,704	57,205	27,124	4,082	2,679	239,624
SURGERIES								
Paying	2,106	302	877	1374	506	83	45	5,349
Free (including the subsidized camp surgeries)	1,608	100	495	1216	396	35	-	3,810
Camp	2,191	194	477	1488	612	-	-	4,924
Total Surgeries	5,905	596	1,849	4,078	1,514	118	45	14,083



CASE STUDY

A child who was retained the paradise of vision!



The parents of a one year old child whose right eye was enucleated due to retinoblastoma suffered untold agony and grief with the prospect of that child losing the next eye too. However, the same cancer in the left eye that was in its initial stage was cured by Aravind Eye Hospital to the boundless joy of the parents

on the baby's 2nd birthday!

When Rajesh (real name shielded), the child, developed a white spot on his right eye, his parents brought him to Aravind - Madurai for a checkup. After preliminary examination, a CT Scan was taken and the report confirmed retinoblastoma in the eye. The parents were informed and advised chemotherapy for the child. The shocked parents consented for the treatment which was given once in 23 days.

In spite of the prolonged chemotherapy, the tumour could not be cured and the right eyeball had to be enucleated. By that time the disease had spread to the left eye and doctors found it was in the initial stage.

One could understand the agony and grief of the parents to whom Rajesh was the only child. When chemotherapy was started on the second eye, they prayed and waited with hope that the eye will be saved somehow, so that the child's life will not become gloomy.

When Rajesh was in his second year, his left eye was examined and the tumour was still there in a small size. Then it was given laser treatment and chemotherapy was also continued. At his second birthday, doctor examined his left eye and found the tumour completely cured. This good news sent the parents to the height of joy and they thanked God and the doctor for retaining the paradise of vision (atleast in one eye) for their son. They were advised to bring the baby for a followup once in 3 months.

In the meanwhile Rajesh's right eye socket was fixed with a prosthetic eye ball which looked like a normal eye. On seeing it his parents felt as if he had regained the original one.

Now, the gloom of despondency in the small family has disappeared with the dawn of a bright light of joy.

Source : C.V.Chinnathai
Orbit Clinic, Aravind - Madurai

Script : K. V. S. Lakshmanan



[Admin](#)